

Rationale for .5 teacher reduction

Student Teacher Ratios

Harpswell Islands School = H.I.S.

West Harpswell School = W.H.S

| | H.I.S | W.H.S | Totaled | District Max | Actual | If all at H.I S | |
|--------------|-------|--------|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Kindergarten | 19/1 | 6/.5 | 25/1.5 | 18/.5 | 12.5/.5 | 25/1 | 12.5/.5 (2 sessions) |
| Grade 1 | 15/1 | 14/.5 | 29/1.5 | 20/1 | 29/1.5 | 29/2 | 14.5/1 |
| Grade 2 | 13/1 | 14/1 | 27/2 | 20/1 | 27/2 | 27/1.5 | 18/1 |
| Grade 3 | 21/1 | 13/1 | 34/2 | 20/1 | 34/2 | 33/2 | 16.5/1 |
| Grade 4 | 20/1 | 20/1 | 40/2 | 25/1 | 40/2 | 40/2 | 20/1 |
| Grade 5 | 23/1 | 7/.5 | 30/1.5 | 25/1 | 30/1.5 | 30/1.5 | 20/1 |
| Total | 111/6 | 74/4.5 | 185/10.5 | | | 185/10 | |
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In the 2008 -2009 school year, the West Harpswell School had combined grades from Grade 1 – Grade 5 to meet the needs of students. The Grade 1/2 combination consisted of 14 first graders and 4 second graders. The Grade 2/3 combination consisted of 11 second graders and 5 third graders. The grade 3/4 combination was 7 third graders and 12 fourth graders. The Grade 5 combination was 8 fourth graders and 7 fifth graders. The kindergarten class, consisting of 6 students was taught by a .5 teacher. The needs of 74 students were met by 4.5 teachers with an average class size (with the exception of Kindergarten) of 16.5 students.

If the two schools had combined in 2008-2009, there would have been no need for the .5 Kindergarten teacher, as those 6 students, when combined with the 19 from the Harpswell Islands school would have required only two sessions of kindergarten with 12 and thirteen students each. The Harpswell Islands school had combined its Kindergarten students with grade 1 to create two Grade K/1 combination grades – one with 9 K and 7 Grade 1; the other with 10 K and 8 grade 1 – to balance its class sizes. The addition of the 6 West Harpswell Students would have eliminated the need for the K-1 configuration, but would not have changed the staffing needs at the Harpswell Islands school as the first grade numbers of 15 could then be taught by one of the K/1 teachers and the two half day sessions of kindergarten would be taught by the other with 12 and 13 students per session.

One combination grade would then find its way to the new school either at the 4th/5th grade level or at the 2nd/3rd as noted in the table above.